Item 5A

LMRWD 2-19-2025

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**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**Board of Managers**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

**Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, MN 7:00 p.m.**

**Approved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2025**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   1. **ROLL CALL**

On Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM CST, in the Board Room of the Carver County Government Center, 602 East 4th Street, Chaska, Minnesota, President Barisonzi called to order the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD).

President Barisonzi asked for the roll call to be taken. The following Managers were present: President Barisonzi, Manager Theresa Kuplic, Manager Apollo Lammers, Manager Lauren Salvato and Manager Vinatha Viswanathan.

In addition, the following attended the meeting in-person: Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting, LLC, LMRWD Administrator; Della Schall Young, Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC, LMRWD Technical Consultant; and Joe Barten, Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District. John Kolb, Rinke Noonan Attorneys at Law, LMRWD Legal Counsel; Commissioner Lisa Anderson, Carver County; Commissioner Jodi Brennan, Scott County; and Ben Burnett, Manager, Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District; attended the meeting virtually. Molly Jansen, Park Street Public, LMRWD Government Relations Consultant joined the meeting at 7:30 PM.

1. **CITIZEN FORUM**

Joe Barten, Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District, came forward and shared that he has been with the Dakota County SWCD for 11 years and has worked in urban stormwater management his entire career. He noted that have had a reorganization at the Dakota County SWCD and he is in a new role where he will be interacting with all of the watershed districts in the County so he wanted to introduce himself this evening to the Board. He added that he plans on regularly attending the LMRWD meetings. He shared that he hopes to do a formal presentation at an upcoming meeting about their landscape and clean water programs. He noted that he has lots of ideas that he would like to discuss with the Board in the future.

President Barisonzi asked if the Dakota County SWCD was planning on applying for the MPCA stormwater grant. Mr. Barten said they have looked into this grant opportunity; however, they are not currently planning on applying. He said they will keep this grant in mind for the future.

President Barisonzi asked Mr. Barten if he was able to listen to the listening session that the LMRWD put on. Mr. Barten said no. President Barisonzi shared that they were asked at this event for some more educational initiatives. He said it would be beneficial for the LMRWD and the Dakota County SWCD to get together and come up with plans for more educational initiatives.

Mr. Barten shared that they have looked into creating educational materials that are region-specific to be more cost effective.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
2. **Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda**

President Barisonzi asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Administrator Loomis requested the addition of two invoices that were received on the day of the meeting; an invoice for February 2025 office rent and an invoice from Carver County WMO for 2024 monitoring services.

**Manager Salvato made a motion to approve the agenda with the revisions to the order of items and the addition of the invoices. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken the motion was carried unanimously.**

1. **PUBLIC HEARINGS & PRESENTATION**
2. **4th Quarter update on 2024 workplan**

Ms. Young introduced this item and reviewed the 4th quarter updates to the 2024 workplan.

President Barisonzi asked about the involvement of the County’s Staff on these permit projects. Administrator Loomis said they are not sure of the County’s involvement. She said they should all be aware; however, she is not sure. She noted that some of the areas within the watershed district are in unincorporated and they require some County involvement as they have the land use authority.

President Barisonzi shared that he has found that the LMRWD permitting process is not typical as LMRWD Staff has taken great responsibility in making it simpler for applicants, so they do not have to go through another layer of government after speaking with the LMRWD. Ms. Young added that they want to make good use of their partnerships with other municipalities, and they do not want to duplicate work where unnecessary.

Ms. Young added that the LMRWD works with the County SWCDs on monitoring and providing assistance for people who live in the County on stormwater management. She said there is always a lot of work that they are doing with the Counties.

Manager Kuplic suggested sharing more of the information on what the LMRWD does to the Counties. Ms. Young shared that they will be looking into how to integrate the Managers into communication with their Counties on the function of the LMRWD.

President Barisonzi shared that he would like the Board to discuss in the coming months what the things are that they would like the CAC to advise them on.

Manager Salvato asked what the water resource restoration fund looked like prior to the Richard T. Anderson West Bluff Outlook stabilization project. She asked if this was levied in Carver County. Administrator Loomis said Carver County did do a levy.

President Barisonzi asked who qualifies to apply for the water resource restoration fund. Administrator Loomis said it is just limited to Cities. Ms. Young added that anyone can apply for cost-share programs; however, this is limited to Cities only.

President Barisonzi asked if they have ever considered doing something similar for the other watershed districts that are in the district. Administrator Loomis said these other districts are their own entities.

Manager Salvato said she would like them to get creative with this fund.

Administrator Loomis shared that the purpose of this fund is to use it on projects as they come up rather than having to do a plan amendment every time they want to help fund a project.

President Barisonzi shared his appreciation for these quarterly reports this year.

Manager Salvato asked if they will be discussing what to do with the funding for the areas that they were under budget. Administrator Loomis shared that the Finance Committee will be discussing this at the February meeting.

President Barisonzi explained that they cut the budget from what was originally planned and there was an assumption built in that there would be excess funding.

**Manager Lammers made a motion to receive and file the 4th Quarter update to the 2024 LMRWD Workplan. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.**

1. **CONSENT AGENDA**

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

1. **Approve Minutes December 11, 2024, and December 11, 2024, Board Workshop**
2. **Receive and file December 2024 Financial Report**
3. **Approval of Invoices for payment**
   1. **Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) - Financial services through December 2024**
   2. **Rinke Noonan, Attorneys at Law - November 2024 general legal services**
   3. **Daniel Hron – January 2025 office rent**
   4. **US Bank Equipment Finance – January 2025 copier lease payment**
   5. **Young Environmental Consulting Group, LLC –December 2024 technical, and Education and Outreach services**
   6. **Naiad Consulting, LLC – November & December 2024 administrative services, mileage, and expenses**
   7. **I & S Group, Inc. – Engineering & project management for Spring Creek**
   8. **I & S Group, Inc. – Engineering & project management for Spring Creek through December 31, 2024**
   9. **HDR Engineering, Inc. – Website management services through November 30, 2024**
   10. **Minnesota Star Tribune – invoice for publication of public hearing notice for final levy certification**
   11. **Bolton & Menk, Inc. – Surveying services related to Area #3**
   12. **Redpath and Company – Installment payment for 2022 Financial Audit**
   13. **Sunram Construction – payment #1 for Spring Creek**
   14. **106 Group – Final 2024 Invoice for Area #3 services**
   15. **Minnesota Community Network – A/V Services for Listening Session**
   16. **Dakota County SWCD – Q 4 2024 monitoring, technical and education services**
   17. **Park Street Public – January 2025 Government Relations Services**
   18. **Carver County WMO – 2024 monitoring and education services**
   19. **Daniel Hron – February office rent**
   20. **4M Fund – November 2024 fund service charges**
4. **Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee**
5. **Minutes of Board Committees**
   * Personnel Committee – Thursday, January 9, 2025
6. **‘Landscaping for Clean Water’ Report from Dakota SWCD**
7. **Designation of 2025 Official Newspaper**
8. **Designation of Official Depository**
9. **Designation of Data Practices Compliance Official**
10. **Authorize execution of JPA between Dakota County SWCD and the LMRWD for monitoring, educational and technical assistance services**

**Manager Lammers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of two invoices one from Carver County WMO, for 2024 monitoring, TACS and Education assistance and one from Daniel Hron, for February office rent. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.**

1. **PERMITS**
2. **LMRWD Permit Renewals**

There were no permit renewal requests this month.

1. **ACTIONS ITEMS**
2. **2025 Legislative Agenda**

Administrator Loomis introduced this item and Molly Jansen from Park Street Public.

Ms. Jansen shared that the legislature convened yesterday at noon. She noted that the Senate has had a few committees that have met; however, nothing having to do with the LMRWD initiatives. She shared that there has been a lot of drama in the House and they will not be getting anything done for the next few weeks. She said they are off to a rocky start in this legislative session.

President Barisonzi noted that the Board came up with three critical priorities and five supporting items this legislative session. He asked if there were any items discussed at the listening session that are not on this agenda that should be added. Ms. Jansen shared that she and Mr. Barten debriefed after the listening session and neither of them saw anything that was an immediate action item. She noted that the legislative agenda is robust and covers everything discussed.

**Manager Kuplic made a motion to adopt the legislative priorities and presented. Manager Salvato seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.**

1. **Administrative Services Update**

No new information from the last update.

1. **Select date for 2025 Minnesota River Tour**

President Barisonzi introduced this item.

Administrator Loomis shared that a date in August would likely be best so there would not be as many potential scheduling conflicts. She asked the Managers to send her any dates that they would be unavailable in August and she will plan around this.

**Manager Salvato made a motion to authorize Staff to select a date for the 2025 Minnesota River Tour. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion.** **Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried unanimously.**

1. **BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**
2. **State of the Minnesota River Listening Session**

President Barisonzi introduced this item. He asked the Board for feedback and next steps based on the listening session.

Manager Kuplic shared that the session went very well and they had a great turn out.

Manager Salvato shared that in looking at the attendance list, she noticed that there were not as many congressional staff members or County commissioners in attendance which reinforces the need for regular communication. She said she would like to have more details on what a partnership with the Minnesota River Collaborative would look like before making this commitment. She noted that they heard a lot of suggestions but would like more information on what is feasible and what is not. Manager Kuplic agreed.

Manager Lammers said he would like to reach out to the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District as well as the city of Eagan to see how the LMRWD could work with them.

President Barisonzi noted that there has been communication with those who manage Dean Lake.

Administrator Loomis shared that she had put in her report the request for citizen assisted monitoring at Dean Lake. She added that she and Ms. Young did not have Dean Lake classified as a lake, but rather an open water wetland. She said the proposal to put storage in Dean Lake could be problematic. She shared her recommendation to approve Victoria, a resident on Dean Lake, for citizen assisted monitoring.

President Barisonzi thanked Staff for their work on this session and getting everything together. He shared that they still need to work to get their desired targets in front of the LMRWD. He noted that the issues that were brought up need to be discussed to see where they fit into future workplans. He asked about the budget capacity to do a round of feedback on the report. Ms. Young said she can get back to the Board on this. She added that they can add whatever the Board would like to the report. Administrator Loomis said they would not be able to have this report finished by the February meeting. She asked them to get her and Ms. Young the information they would like in the report in the coming weeks.

President Barisonzi shared that he would like there to be a sub-document or a directory of what the Board was asked at the listening session.

Ms. Young shared that Steve Woods did a great job as MC of this event. She asked the Board if they would be supportive of Mr. Woods helping create the report. There was no objection from the Board.

1. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **Study Area #3**

For information only – no action was taken.

1. **LMRWD Permit Program Summary**

No action required.

1. **COMMUNICATIONS**
   1. **Administrator Report:** Administrator Loomis reported that 1099s have been prepared and will be mailed out shortly. The next meeting of Metro Watersheds is scheduled for January 21, 2025 and will held via Zoom. She reported a conversation with Rita Weaver from BWSR to discuss water storage activities. Scott County WMO and Carver County WMO have both begun the next generation of their Watershed Management Plans. The LMRWD has been invited to be part of the Scott County planning process. The LMRWD has not been invited to participate in its planning process.
   2. **President:** No report.
   3. **Managers:** Manager Salvato asked Administrator Loomis to send the Managers an email about the Q&A session for the Managers to share.
   4. **Committees:** President Barisonzi stated the Committees have been very busy and shared his appreciation for the Managers serving on these Committees.
   5. **Legal Counsel:** No report.
   6. **Engineer:** No report.
2. **ADJOURN**

**Hearing no further business, President Barisonzi adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.**

**The next regular meeting of the LMRWD Board of Managers will be at 7:00, Wednesday, February 19, 2025, in the Board Room at the Carver County Government Center.**

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Lauren Salvato, Secretary

Attest:

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Linda Loomis, Administrator